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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/051,221	01/18/2002	Kazuya Kishimoto	P6545a	7176

20178 7590 03/01/2005

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EXAMINER

LIEN, TAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2141

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/051,221

Applicant(s)

KISHIMOTO, KAZUYA

Examiner

Tan Lien

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Priority***

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in foreign Application No. 2001-026709, filed on 02/02/2001.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear as to what "electronic-mail processing is designated at each node of a work flow" means. It is also unclear what the phrase really encompasses. Therefore, the Examiner will interpret it in accordance to the rejection of claims 2 and 8 below.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

*Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (US Patent 6,385,640) in view of Frantz (US Patent 6,003,070).*

Claim 1, 6, 7, 10, 11: Yamamoto teaches a work-flow cooperation processing apparatus that achieves cooperation among at least two work-flow systems (FIG. 1), a first one of the work-flow systems including at least a first computer apparatus serving as a work-flow server (FIG. 5, ref. 101 in 100(1)) and an electronic mail sender (FIG. 5, ref. 213(1), 214(1)), a second one of the work-flow systems including at least a second computer apparatus serving as a work-flow server (FIG. 5, ref. 101 in 100(2)), an electronic mail storage (FIG. 5, ref. 221(2)), and a network that connects at least the first computer apparatus and the electronic mail storage, the work-flow cooperation processing apparatus comprising:

a method-server apparatus that connects to the network (col. 1 lines 12-14) and to the second computer apparatus (FIG. 5, ref. 222(2) & 223(2)), that reads electronic mail from the electronic mail storage (FIG. 5, ref. 221(2)), the electronic mail being sent from the first computer apparatus (FIG. 5, ref. 100(1)) and including a command related to work flow in the second work-flow system (col. 6 lines 54-64; wherein the system is checking to see if the email sent is work-flow related, if related then process), and that transmits a command to the second computer apparatus for execution of the command by the second computer apparatus (col. 6 lines 10-15; wherein the request to process a work-

flow in the second system is done by transmitting an email request).

Yomamoto, however, fails to explicitly teach a command included in the electronic mail.

Frantz, in an analogous art, teaches including system commands in an email to upgrade, maintain, monitor, and control the system remotely through a network (col. 4 lines 43-50). It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Yomamoto's system with Frantz's command email system, for the advantage of remotely monitoring and controlling system process (col. 2, lines 1-10 Frantz)

Claim 2, 8: Yomamoto teaches a work-flow cooperation processing apparatus according to claim 1, 7, wherein

the first computer apparatus sends the electronic mail for storage in the electronic mail storage according to whether electronic-mail processing is designated at each node of a work flow in the first one of the work-flow systems (col. 6 lines 53-65; wherein the email is designated to work-flow process for a specific client).

Claim 3, 9: Yomamoto teaches a work-flow cooperation processing apparatus according to claim 1, 7, wherein

the method-server apparatus first determines that the electronic mail read from the electronic mail storage is related to a work flow in the second one of the work-flow systems before transmitting the command to the second computer apparatus (col. 6 lines 1-15; wherein the 1<sup>st</sup> system has to determine that the email is related to the second work-flow system in order for the 1<sup>st</sup> system to send it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> system).

Claim 4: Yomamoto teaches a work-flow cooperation processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the command is an activation command that activates a work flow in a work-flow system (col. 5 lines 64-67 and FIG. 5; wherein the work-flow data block is activated to process work-flow data from the sender and receiver).

Claim 5: Yomamoto teaches a work-flow cooperation processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the electronic mail is text data, and the text data includes a parameter specifying a work flow in a work-flow system (col. 6 lines 1-22; wherein the data are processed line-by-line which means it is text oriented).

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tan Lien whose telephone number is (571) 272-3883.

Art Unit: 2141

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30am to 6pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

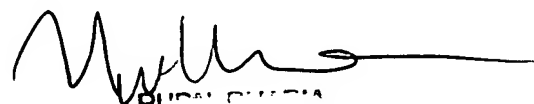
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharja, can be reached at (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3718.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [tan.lien@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Tan Lien  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2141

  
RUPAL DHARJA  
SUPERVISOR & EXAMINER

RUPAL DHARJA  
EXAMINER